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MONDAY
JULY 26, 1954

We went off from Le Bourget on the BEA 11:00 o'clock plane, landed at Northolt, and lunched at Bucks. I bought books at Thorp's, then went to the Embassy and conferred with [illegible]throp and Jim Penfield over what might be done to dispel the ambiguity in France over the British EDC position. I prepared the following telegram, showed it to Winthrop, who approved it and promised to see Eden tomorrow:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

"FROM: LONDON

"ACTION: WASHINGTON

"INFO: PARIS 77, July 26, 6 PM

"SENT DEPT 441 RPTD INFO PARIS 77 BONN 43.

"FROM BRUCE.

"Jean Jacques Servan Schreiber came to see me yesterday and had long confidential talk. On whole I was encouraged by his changed attitude toward EDC, but greatly concerned over one dangerous misunderstanding which must be cleared up.

"He said Mendès-France had derived impression from Secretary's letter to Foreign Relations Committee, from certain recent ambiguous remarks by Churchill in House of Commons, from conversations between Massigli and British officials, from intimations of what had transpired at the US-UK working party meetings in London, that although the division of the Bonn contractuals from the EDC treaty (in the event of non-ratification of the latter by the French parliament before its summer recess) had been agreed between the US and UK, the consideration of how to rearm Germany would under such circumstances be postponed rather indefinitely.

"I answered that if Mendès is harboring this impression and is influenced by it in formulating the action promised by him on EDC he is proceeding along dangerous path.

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"Servan replied that if I were correct in my interpretation of US-UK policy which I had explained to him along lines of Deptel 437 (Paris 272 Bonn 203), then Mendès' erroneous interpretation in this regard should be speedily corrected.

"In light of above I have discussed this today with Ambassador Aldrich, who intends to see Eden and attempt persuade him to instruct Jebb to deliver to Mendès message clearly defining HMG position in terms consonant with those which Dept has already authorized Dillon and other ambassadors to convey (Deptel 437).

"It is most unlike discipline ordinarily prevailing in British Fonoff for confusion to exist over whether some of Eden's subordinates have a policy on EDC other than that expressed by him. In this case such confusion apparently does exist in mind of the French Prime Minister and I doubt its being dispelled by any explanation passing via the reporting of Massigli.

"If any action is taken on this telegram, I request that Servan Schreiber's name not be used in connection with it. ALDRICH."

We stayed at 18A Charles Street with Nancy, who had Bob Brand, Alistair Forbes and Audrey Bouverie for dinner. I sat over port with Bob and Ali, and we had much talk about the EDC, which I maintained had a good chance of success in the French National Assembly if the British endorsement of it were once more clearly given to Mendès. I hope Forbes does not repeat in his Daily Mail articles everything I said. Audrey looked very ill.

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